



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/01/2021
Time: 03:00 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0220 RELATING TO SERVICE-LEARNING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to implement a service-learning curriculum to develop student character, values, self-esteem, civic responsibility, and knowledge of local community issues and concerns through community service volunteer work.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on SB 220.

Within the Department's Authorized Courses and Code Numbers (ACCN), there is a multidisciplinary 0.5 credit elective high school course on Community Service. This course requires a minimum of 60 hours of service, which is overseen by a school faculty member, and counts as part of the six-credit general elective graduation requirement for all high school students. It provides students with opportunities to develop responsibility, encourages humanitarian attitudes by serving others, and encourages cooperative working relationships with peers and adults in the community.

Imposing the requirements contained in this measure may have the unintended consequence of limiting innovation in school design as well as preventing students from enrolling in other elective courses, such as Fine Arts, World Languages, and Computer Science. We urge the legislature to be mindful of these potential impacts.

The Department believes that the existence of the Community Service course, coupled with the potentially adverse impacts on student choice and school design, warrant caution in advancing SB 220.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 220.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



SENATE BILL 220, RELATING TO SERVICE-LEARNING

FEBRUARY 1, 2020 · SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports SB 220, relating to service-learning, which requires the Department of Education to implement a service-learning curriculum to develop student character, values, self-esteem, civic responsibility, and knowledge of local community issues and concerns through community service volunteer work.

During the reckless reign of Trump, we witnessed cracks in the foundations of our democratic heritage. White nationalists were empowered by the former president and his administration to violently attack people of color. Civil rights were rolled back for racial, ethnic, gender, sexual, and religious minorities. Misinformation became a weapon in the war on liberty and justice, as Right-Wing extremists became so disconnected from reality that they purged their post-election anger by assaulting the seat of American governance: the United States Capitol.

We cannot allow this to happen again. While we often talk about ensuring that our schools prepare students for the 21st Century workforce, one of the foremost missions of education is developing students' sense of civic responsibility and engagement. Service-learning programs enable our keiki to apply classroom content to real-world problems in their communities, linking personal,

cognitive, and social development with efforts to create sustainable solutions for the long-term success of our society. In short, they evoke real-world change.

As the philosopher William James suggested, information is only valuable when it is used for action. Learning outcomes of students that are encouraged to follow their communal passions exceed those of students bound to standardization according to recent studies. When we promote service-learning opportunities in our schools, we allow teachers and students to realize the fundamental ideas of democracy that inspire citizens to become social entrepreneurs.

We are just beginning to undo the damage that the Trump administration wrought on our nation, including the residents of Hawai'i. Let's direct our school system to build a bulwark against the xenophobic regressivity that we must all work to overcome.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:17:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Anderson | Testifying for Common Cause Hawaii Board Member | Support | No |

Comments:

SB 220 will teach young people the importance of civics, civic responsibility, and our governmental processes. It will also provide the foundation for civil, courteous, and respectful participation in the political systems.

Prior to 2020, Hawaii had one of the lowest voter registration rates in the Nation (only better than Wyoming). See <http://www.electproject.org/2018g>. Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develops through repetition, and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. Hopefully, having young people learn the value of civics, a representative government, and democracy will encourage young people to register to voter and actually vote in the primaries and general elections, leading to a more vibrant and robust representative democracy and civil society.

I strongly support SB 220, and respectfully urge the Committee members to pass SB 220 out of your Committee.

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Monday, February 1, 2021

3:00 PM

Conference Room 229

in consideration of

SB 220**RELATING TO SERVICE-LEARNING.**

Chair KIDANI, Vice Chair KIM, and Members of the Senate Education Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 220, which would require the Department of Education to implement a service-learning curriculum to develop student character, values, self-esteem, civic responsibility, and knowledge of local community issues and concerns through community service volunteer work.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through efforts that increase civic engagement, voter turnout, and voter participation in our democratic processes.

SB 220 will teach young people the importance of civics, civic responsibility, and our governmental processes. It will also provide the foundation for civil, courteous, and respectful participation in the political systems.

Prior to 2020, Hawaii had one of the lowest voter registration rates in the Nation (only better than Wyoming), according to Election Administration and Voting Survey 2018 Comprehensive Report to the 116th Congress at page 48. See https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac_assets/1/6/2018_EAVS_Report.pdf. Prior to 2020, Hawaii also had one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the Nation, according to the U.S. Elections Project. See <http://www.electproject.org/2018g>. Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop through repetition, and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit>. Hopefully, having young people learn the value of civics, a representative government, and democracy will encourage young people to register to voter and actually vote in the primaries and general elections, leading to a more vibrant and robust representative democracy and civil society.

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 220, and Common Cause Hawaii respectfully urges the Committee members to pass SB 220 out of your Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 220. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

January 30, 2021

To: Senator Michelle Kidani
And members of the Committee on Education

Testimony in Support of SB 220 Related to Service Learning

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB220 Related to Service Learning.

Through youth engagement, communities can do a better job of creating the services, opportunities, and supports that young people need to develop in healthy ways.

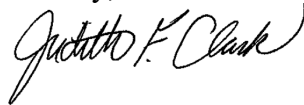
“Youth civic engagement leads to reduced risky behavior, increased success in school and leads to greater civic participation later in life. . . . Civic engagement provides young people with opportunities to gain work experience, acquire new skills, and to learn responsibility and accountability—all while contributing to the good of their communities. “

{Center for the Study of Social Policy. Results-based Public Policy Strategies for Promoting Youth Civic Engagement.

<https://www.cssp.org/policy/papers/Promoting-Youth-Civic-Engagement.pdf>}

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 10:20:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan B Roberts Emery | Testifying for Green Party Hawai'i | Support | No |

Comments:

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i , we are in support of SB 220. Teaching future generations how to serve the Community and offer service learning is invaluable for our children's futures. Engagement with peers and members of our communities will allow Hawai'i to build strong relationships amongst our peoples.

It is with great pride and honor that we support SB 220 and we respectfully urge the committee members to pass SB 220 out of your committee.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sincerely,

Susan B Roberts Emery

Green party of Hawai'i

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 10:27:42 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dale Arthur Head | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Sun January 3,1 2021 Support for passage of SB220

Aloha esteemed Senators:

This Senate Bill #220 is great, I fully support it and urge passage. That it has 12 Senators as Introducers is most impressive.

Hopefully this bill will encourage young people to not only register to vote but make it an ingrained lifelong habit. Democracy must have citizen awareness and participation to work well. The current push to suppress voting throughout the country is anti-democratic.

Also, doing civic volunteer work is very good as students meet new people, gain life experiences, and hopefully make lifelong friends.

Here is a good link to explore on the Internet:

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_students_benefit_from_school_diversity

Please pass Senate Bill 220.

Respectfully, Dale A. Head sunnymakaha@gmail.com (808) 696-4589

PS - I was alerted about this bill's existence by Common Cause Hawaii, a splendid civics minded organization.

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 2:12:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Phil Barnes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Increasing civic engagement in Hawai'i is critical in light of increasing threats to our democracy. The normally abysmal voting percentage in our state was somewhat better in the last election but we still have a long way to go to produce an engaged citizenry.

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 3:58:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lauralee Baoy | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB 220 and believe that it would greatly benefit our youth. For some youth, service learning and getting involved in that way helps to solidify learning and engagement. We have used service learning at our program, the Community Teen Program at Parents and Children Together to teach Hawawaiin values such as Lokahi, Ahonui, Pono, Aloha Aina and Akahai. We have found that youth who feel like they are a part of something tend to do better in school and we found were more helpful in our program center in helping staff and becoming student leaders.

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 3:06:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amy Brinker | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Support

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:54:42 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dyson Chee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice-chair Kim, and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Dyson Chee and I am an 18-year-old student living in Ala Moana. I am testifying in strong support of SB220, as an increase in civics education in our classrooms is greatly needed if we are to prepare youth to be engaged in the electoral process. As I was homeschooled, I am lucky to have been able to shape my education to tailer my needs, which meant that I included local civics education into my own curriculum. Unfortunately, many of my friends who attend DOE schools have consistently told me that they lacked this sort of civics education in their classes, as much as they wanted them.

By incorporating more localized civics education in our classrooms, we can get students interested in our government and bolster our democracy. Even better, if we couple this with lowering the voting age, we can engage students both thoeretically in the classroom and in real-life through the ballot. While there is no silver bullet solution to fixing our democratic issues and increasing civic and electoral participation, this will certainly get us closer to completing the puzzle. For this reason, I hope you will pass SB220.

Sincerely,

Dyson Chee

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:23:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Edward B Hanel Jr | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Concur with comments submitted by Common Cause Hawaii. The lack of basic knowledge about American history and civics is appalling throughout our nation. A non-partisan class in civics is a step in the right direction for the future of Hawaii.

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 11:25:10 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| tlaloc tokuda | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB 220 will teach young people the importance of civics, civic responsibility, and our governmental processes. It will also provide the foundation for civil, courteous, and respectful participation in the political systems.

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Prior to 2020, Hawaii also had one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the Nation, according to the U.S. Elections Project – second only to . See <http://www.electproject.org/2018g>. Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop through repetition, and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit>. Hopefully, having young people learn the value of civics, a representative government, and democracy will encourage young people to register to voter and actually vote in the primaries and general elections, leading to a more vibrant and robust representative democracy and civil society.

I support SB 220, and I respectfully urge the Committee members to pass SB 220 out of your Committee.

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 11:39:57 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Martha Nakajima | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support SB220:and associate with the position of Common Cause. Thank you

Martha NAKAJIMA

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 12:15:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Pcola_Davis | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the concept.

Providing education in a setting with guidance that enables students to be part of the bigger picture connects them with real life issues. Enabling them to be an active part of the community.

Although I will not be part of the curriculum design, it is important for our young adults to know that if they want to make a change they need to take part in it.

This legislative process, the ability to know how to write testimony, provide oral presentations, and being just aware of what is happening around them. To learn how to be an active part of our society and to be able to contribute thoughts and actions connects school and government. Something many of us in the older generation did not have.

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 1:11:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Alani Bagcal | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim, and esteemed members of the committee:

My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in support for SB220.

It took me a long time to find my passion in life, I had the privilege of attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and not knowing what major I wanted to pursue. Only when I started getting involved in community work, volunteering, and organizing in support of women's rights is where I found my calling. Whether it be attending a fundraiser for the keiki to marching a "Respect" rally to show solidarity with survivors, I know that I am helping causes that are very near and dear to my heart, and are important to my community.

Being in the community, being a part of a service has been one of the greatest and rewarding experiences of my life, where I found purpose. Now I am an organizer with Planned Parenthood, where I have a kuleana to stand up for women's, LGBTQIA+, BIPOC rights when it comes to accessing health care and education. Some of the very reasons why I am the self-determined woman that I am today. I really admire this bill and the potential implementation of service learning programs in the education curriculum as I believe it will help teach students the value of what showing up for your community is. Something that we don't all learn unless we seek it out or stumble upon it, having students be exposed to this work and take part in it is very important.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for this bill,

Alani Bagcal

96815

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 1:52:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara J. Service | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support Civics instruction, as well as values and character development for high school seniors. Young people need opportunities to develop lifelong habits, such as voting.

Mahalo!

Barbara J. Service MSW (ret.)

Senior advocate

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 12:30:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathy Jaycox | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Especially at this time for our country, I support all efforts that will help young people understand more clearly how representative government works and the importance of voting and behaving civilly, even to those with whom we may disagree.

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 2:56:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stacie M Burke | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Senate Education Committee

Stacie Burke

Monday February 1, 2021

Support for SB no. 220

I will keep this brief. The current spread of election fraud misinformation could have been mitigated by a more informed electorate. I spent time volunteering with several groups while on leave . It was through social media monitoring with Common Cause that I got to see this first hand. A number of voters that I engaged with were convinced that the votes in our election were not valid. A few believed that our first year with all mail voting was a part of a nefarious plan. It will take a while to win back the trust of those people. There is so much disconnect , especially with all that is happening with covid restrictions.

It is important that our young people learn the importance of civics with a robust curriculum, rather than through conspiracy theories and falsehoods.

Therefore I urge you to pass S.B. no. 220 for the future of our democracy. Thank you for your time.

LATE

SB-220

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:20:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Golojuch Jr | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I support SB 220.

Mahalo,

Michael

SB-220

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 7:43:55 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Caroline Kunitake | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Committee on Education,

Please support S220.

Prior to 2020, Hawaii had one of the lowest voter registration rates in the Nation (only better than Wyoming), according to Election Administration and Voting Survey 2018 Comprehensive Report to the 116th Congress at page 48. See https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/eac_assets/1/6/2018_EAVS_Report.pdf.

Prior to 2020, Hawaii also had one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the Nation, according to the U.S. Elections Project – second only to . See <http://www.electproject.org/2018g>. Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop through repetition, and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit>. Hopefully, having young people learn the value of civics, a representative government, and democracy will encourage young people to register to voter and actually vote in the primaries and general elections, leading to a more vibrant and robust representative democracy and civil society.

We need to teach our children how to be good citizens to ensure that all of us can live in a non-violent and fair democracy.

We support SB 220, and we respectfully urge the Committee members to pass SB 220 out of your Committee.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake